

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-27 (Canceled)

28. (New) A method comprising:

receiving an input request at an information management system (IMS) connect program from a user computer, wherein the user computer is associated with a client that provides software to access the IMS connect program independent of a web server;

transmitting the input request to a queue header of the IMS connect program, when the input request is an extensible markup language (XML) input request;

retrieving an input request control block from the queue header;

invoking a specified data transformer to parse and translate the input request to create an input request byte array;

transmitting the input request byte array to an IMS application program;

receiving an output response byte array from the IMS application program;

transmitting the output response byte array to the queue header;

retrieving an output response control block from the queue header;

invoking the data transformer to parse and translate the output response byte array to create an XML output response; and

transmitting the XML output response to the user computer via a communication path that is independent of the web server.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, further comprising, generating an XML fault message when the translation of the input request or translation of the output response has not been successful.

30. (New) The method of claim 28, further comprising, determining when the input request includes XML data.

31. (New) A system to facilitate extensible markup language (XML) enabled information management system (IMS) transactions, the system comprising:

a mainframe server that includes a digital processing apparatus and memory accessible to the digital processing apparatus, the memory including:

at least one IMS connect program; and

at least one IMS application program responsive to the at least one IMS connect program;

wherein the at least one IMS connect program includes logic to receive an XML input request from a user computer, wherein the user computer is associated with a roll-your-own (RYO) client that provides software to access the IMS connect program independent of a web server associated with the mainframe server.

32. (New) The system of claim 31, wherein the at least one IMS connect program includes at least one of an XML processor, an XML initialization routine, an XML adapter routine, an XML terminator routine, or any combination thereof.

33. (New) The system of claim 32, wherein the at least one IMS connect program includes at least one XML processor that includes at least one XML server and at least one queue header.

34. (New) The system of claim 33, wherein the at least one XML server is adapted to invoke the XML initialization routine, the XML adapter routine, the XML terminator routine, or any combination thereof.

35. (New) The system of claim 33, wherein the XML adapter routine is adapted to invoke a PL/I transformer, a COBOL transformer, a C transformer, a message format services (MFS) transformer, a high level assembler (HLASM) transformer, a roll-your-own (RYO) transformer, or any combination thereof.

36. (New) The system of claim 35, wherein the mainframe server includes an XML metadata interchange (XMI) repository that is adapted to communicate with the PL/I transformer, the COBOL transformer, the C transformer, the MFS transformer, the HLASM transformer, or the RYO transformer.

37. (New) The system of claim 35, wherein the at least one IMS connect program includes logic to:

- transmit the XML input request to the at least one queue header;
- retrieve an XML input request control block from the at least one queue header;
- invoke the XML adapter routine;
- invoke a specified data transformer;
- parse and translate the XML input request to create an input request byte array; and
- transmit the input request byte array to the at least one IMS application program.

38. (New) The system of claim 37, wherein the specified data transformer is the RYO transformer and wherein the RYO transformer is provided by the RYO client associated with the XML input request.

39. (New) The system of claim 33, wherein the at least one IMS connect program includes logic to:

- receive an output response byte array from the at least one IMS application program;
- transmit the output response byte array to the at least one queue header;
- retrieve an output response control block from the at least one queue header;
- parse and translate the output response byte array to create an XML output response; and
- transmit the XML output response to the user computer via a communication path that is independent of the web server associated with the mainframe server.

40. (New) The system of claim 39, wherein the output response byte array is at least partially based on the input response byte array.

41. (New) A method of facilitating extensible markup language (XML) enabled information management system (IMS) transactions, the method comprising:

receiving a first XML input request at an IMS connect program from a first user computer via a first communication path; and

receiving a second XML input request at the IMS connect program from a second user computer via a second communication path, wherein the second communication path is independent of the first communication path.

42. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the first communication path includes a web server and the second communication path does not include a web server.

43. (New) The method of claim 41, further comprising:

transmitting the first XML input request to a first queue header included in an XML processor of the IMS connect program; and

transmitting the second XML input request to the first queue header or to a second queue header included in the XML processor.

44. (New) The method of claim 43, further comprising:

retrieving a first XML input request control block from the first queue header;

invoking a transformer to parse and translate the first XML input request;

retrieving a second XML input request control block from the first queue header or the second queue header; and

invoking the transformer to parse and translate the second XML input request.

45. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the transformer includes a first transformer when an IMS application program is associated with a first application language and the transformer includes a second transformer when the IMS application program is associated with a second application language.

46. (New) The method of claim 44, further comprising:
creating a first input request byte array based on the first XML input request within the
IMS connect program;
creating a second input request byte array based on the second XML input request within
the IMS connect program; and
transmitting the first input request byte array and the second input request byte array from
the IMS connect program to an IMS application program.

47. (New) The method of claim 46, further comprising:
receiving a first output response byte array at the IMS connect program from the IMS
application program;
receiving a second output response byte array at the IMS connect program from the IMS
application program; and
invoking the transformer to transform the first output response byte array to a first XML
output response and to transform the second output response byte array to a
second XML output response.

48. (New) The method of claim 47, further comprising:
transmitting the first XML output response to the first user computer via the first
communication path; and
transmitting the second XML output response to the second user computer via the second
communication path.